

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 225

By Holt

A RESOLUTION to commend Pettus L. Read for his outstanding career as the Communications Director for the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Pettus L. Read, a genuine Tennessee treasure, a writer who has regaled us with his fact-informed life experiences and fantasy-informed stories and tales of farming and the agrarian culture of his home state; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Read is an amazing apostle of the rural lifestyle, which has couched every aspect of his life since his birth in a log farmhouse in the small community of Versailles in Rutherford County, and with his gift of creative writing he has cultivated a marvelous career in communications and publishing; and

WHEREAS, Middle Tennessee State University is Mr. Read's beloved alma mater and he holds a Bachelor of Science degree in plant and soil science, earned there in 1970. His allegiance to the Blue Raiders is profound, and many who know him firmly hold that his blood does indeed run blue; and

WHEREAS, in 1969, Mr. Read became an agent for the Tennessee Farm Bureau in Rutherford County and soon moved into the position of District IV Farm Bureau Fieldman, working throughout the fifteen counties of the Upper Cumberland Region; and

WHEREAS, in 1983, Mr. Read moved to the Farm Bureau headquarters in Columbia, where he was named an Associate Director of the Communications Department and, in January of 1995, he assumed the position of Director; and



WHEREAS, Mr. Read is editor of the *Tennessee Farm Bureau News*, as well as the *Tennessee Home & Farm*, for which he authors the nationally-acclaimed and proverbially humorous weekly column "Read All About It," which is seen in print in more than fifty-five newspapers across the State; and

WHEREAS, a master of periodical writing, Pettus Read has authored a delightful book entitled *Read All About It – A Rural Psychology Primer*, the proceeds of which he is giving to two organizations, 4-H and FFA, which he knows helped to make him what he is today; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Read has received two Awards of Excellence from the American Farm Bureau, an Excellence in Media award from the Tennessee Veterinary Medical Association, and the Boy Scouts of America Long Rifle award for his deep commitment to scouting at the local level. He has also received the 4-H Alumni Award, the Epsilon Sigma Phi award as a State Friend of Extension, and the Honorary State Farmer Award from the FFA Association; and

WHEREAS, a believer in the importance of civil service, Pettus Reed currently serves as the president of the Farm and Forest Families of Tennessee, as chairman of the Middle Tennessee State University's Farm Advisory Committee, as a member of the Board of Directors of the National Alumni Association of his alma mater and of the Oscar Farris Agricultural Museum, and as a representative of the American Farm Bureau with the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History; and

WHEREAS, Pettus L. Read epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean, and this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud him for his dedication to the state of Tennessee and its rich heritage and arcadian splendor; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Pettus L. Read for his outstanding career, and we extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.